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## Otepka Case Hearing on Appeal Near

By the Associated Press

The State Department and its embattled security evaluator, Otto F. Otepka, expect that the latter's appeal from his dismissal from service will now be heard speedily by a retired judge.

The three-year-old dispute between the department and Otepka has been dormant since Secretary of State Dean Rusk, at the request of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee, agreed to delay the hearing until the committee published all the transcript of its 1963-65 hearing on "State Department security." The last volume, 20th in the series, was made public last night.

State Department officials said they are hopeful the issue now can be concluded without further delay. Washington attorney Roger Robb, Otepka's counsel, told a reporter that "it is up to the State Department to give us a hearing now. We are in good shape."

Earlier this year, the State Department made a concession by agreeing to ask someone outside the department to act as hearing officer in the Otepka appeal. Retired Circuit Judge E. Barrett Prettyman accepted the assignment.

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